

Question: What are the separation distance requirements for sewage treatment systems regulated by the Private Sewage Disposal Systems Regulation?

Answer: The minimum separation distances from the current 2015 Standard of Practice (SOP) are as follows:

Distance From/To	Property Line	Water Source or Water Well	Municipal Water Well	Water Course * Article 2.1.2.4	** Building	Building with Basement, Cellar or Crawl Space	Building without Basement, Cellar or Crawl Space	Building with permanent foundation without basement, cellar or crawl space	Building without permanent foundation	Septic Tanks and/or Packaged Sewage Treatment Plants
Holding Tanks	1 m (3.25 ft)	10 m (33 ft)	-	10 m (33 ft)	1 m (3.25 ft)	-	-	-	-	-
Septic Tanks	1 m (3.25 ft)	10 m (33 ft)	-	10 m (33 ft)	1 m (3.25 ft)	-	-	-	-	-
Packaged Sewage Treatment Plants	Refer to 2015 SOP 5.2.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sand Filters	1 m (3.25 ft) from foot of berm	10 m (33 ft)	-	10 m (33 ft)	1 m (3.25 ft)	-	-	-	-	-
Gravel Filters	3 m (10 ft) from foot of berm	10 m (33 ft)	-	10 m (33 ft)	Refer to 2015 SOP 5.4.2.1.1(d) and 5.4.2.1.2	-	-	-	-	-
Effluent Tanks	1 m (3.25 ft)	10 m (33 ft)	-	10 m (33 ft)	1 m (3.25 ft)	-	-	-	-	-
Settling Tanks	Refer to 2015 SOP 6.2.2. (1),(2),(3), and (4)	10 m (33 ft)	-	10 m (33 ft)	1 m (3.25 ft)	-	-	-	-	-
Lift Stations Refer to 2015 SOP 6.3.2.1.2	1 m (3.25 ft)	10 m (33 ft)	-	10 m (33 ft)	1 m (3.25 ft)	-	-	-	-	-
Treatment Fields	1.5 m (5 ft)	15 m (50 ft)	100 m (330 ft)	* 15 m (50 ft)	-	10 m (33 ft)	-	5 m (17 ft)	1 m (3.25 ft)	5 m (17 ft) Refer to 2015 SOP 8.2.2.1.1(h)
Treatment Mounds	3 m (10 ft)	15 m (50 ft)	100 m (330 ft)	* 15 m (50 ft)	-	10 m (33 ft)	10 m (33 ft)	-	-	3 m (10 ft) Refer to 2015 SOP 8.4.2.1(e)
Drip Dispersal and Irrigation	1.5 m (5 ft)	15 m (50 ft)	100 m (330 ft)	* 15 m (50 ft)	-	Refer to 2015 SOP 8.5.2.1(e)	-	Refer to 2015 SOP 8.5.2.1(g)	1 m (3.25 ft)	Refer to 2015 SOP 8.5.2.1(h)
LFH At-grade Treatment Systems	Refer to 2015 SOP 8.6.2.1.1(d) and 8.6.2.1.1(e)	15 m (50 ft)	100 m (330 ft)	* 15 m (50 ft)	10 m (33 ft)	-	-	-	-	Refer to 2015 SOP 8.6.2.1.1(f)
Open Discharge Systems	90 m (300 ft)	50 m (165 ft)	100 m (330 ft)	* 45 m (150 ft)	45 m (150 ft)	-	-	-	-	-
Lagoon serving a single family dwelling or duplex	30 m (100 ft)	100 m (330 ft)	100 m (330 ft)	90 m (300 ft)	45 m (150 ft)	-	-	-	-	-

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Lagoon serving other than a single family dwelling or duplex	30 m (100 ft) 90 m (300 ft) from a numbered primary or secondary road	100 m (330 ft)	-	90 m (300 ft)	90 m (300 ft)	-	-	-	-	-
Privies-Earthen	5 m (17 ft)	15 m (50 ft)	-	* 15 m (50 ft)	Refer to 2015 SOP 10.1.2.1	-	-	-	-	-
Privies-Tank	Refer to 2015 SOP 10.1.2.1	10 m (33 ft)	-	10 m (33 ft)	Refer to 2015 SOP 10.1.2.1	-	-	-	-	-

Please reference the Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice 2015 for complete design, installation, and material requirements.

*** Article 2.1.2.4 Separation from Specific Surface Waters**

1) The soil-based treatment component of an on-site wastewater treatment system shall be located not less than 90 m (300 ft.) from the shore of a lake, river, stream, or creek.

2) Notwithstanding the requirements of Sentence (1), where a principal building or other development feature is situated between the soil-based treatment component and a lake, river, stream, or creek, such that a failure of the system causing effluent on the ground surface will be obvious and create an undesirable impact own the owner, the distance may be reduced to the minimum distance requirements set out in this Standard for the particular type of treatment system being used.

**** Building** means any structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy that is subject to the Alberta Building Code requirements.

References:

- Private Sewage Disposal Systems Regulation AR 229/97 with amendments up to and including Alberta Regulation 196/2015.
- Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice 2015



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